



**Ministry of  
JUSTICE**

National Offender  
Management Service



**European Social Fund 2011 – 2014 – Technical Assistance – Social Enterprise Procurement 2012**

	Question	Response
1	<b>What kind of activities / further NOMS contracting opportunities we will be able to bid for once established as a consortium?</b>	This grant is not for delivery but for technical assistance. Therefore, bidders primarily need to demonstrate that their proposals align with NOMS CFO and the Specification. The secondary consideration is how the proposal might deliver future opportunities and we would look to bidders to demonstrate their entrepreneurial spirit and market research as to how their enterprises might be future-proofed.
2	<b>What specific elements can be funded with these grants?</b>	Bidders will need to articulate what the funding will be utilised for specific to their proposals and ensure that they are compliant with ESF purchasing requirements and restrictions.
3	<b>What is meant by 'Resettlement' in the context of eligibility for this programme?</b>	Holistic, wraparound services aimed at removing barriers to employment for offenders and ex-offenders, spanning both custody and community.
4	<b>If we are a small Social Enterprise with no back office support structure, how do we maintain this without relinquishing control to a lead member?</b>	This is a dilemma but it is for individual organisations to decide which and what types of partners they wish to form potential consortia with. Technical Support will be made available to all bidders to assist in the process.
5	<b>How will consortia models tie in with the Work Programme and mandation requirements?</b>	The Work Programme provision falls under Department for Works and Pension (DWP).
6	<b>Do all organisations in the consortia models need to be Social Enterprises? Or does the lead member have to be a Social Enterprise?</b>	No, as long as Social Enterprise is at the core of the proposed models, it is for bidders to decide on the make-up of their proposed consortia.
7	<b>In relation to participant eligibility, would working with families be considered?</b>	Yes, if this is in relation to multi-pathway interventions. The dialogue sessions to take place with those organisations successful at the First RFP stage will be an opportunity to provide greater clarification on proposals.
8	<b>In terms of monitoring and evaluation, what specifically will the Authority be evaluating?</b>	Evaluation will be of the proposals and whether they realised the intent for which the grants were awarded. The evaluation will look at the success factors but also build in lessons learned from challenges faced by organisations.
9	<b>What information is available on current delivery and provision?</b>	Bidders can use the points of contact to be provided for Prisons, Probation and Prime Providers, as well as the clarification process to find out about current delivery.
10	<b>Can we use the Case Assessment Tracking System (CATS)?</b>	We would be happy to discuss the use of CATS for possible future delivery models.
11	<b>Will it be an issue if we do not name all members of the consortium at the First RFP Stage or if members change throughout the grant period as this is the basis of our model?</b>	We would expect consistency in the lead partner or core list of members. There would be no issue as long as the grant is expended on the basis of how it was awarded. The dialogue sessions for those successful at the First RFP stage will provide an opportunity to discuss models in more depth.
12	<b>Could an organisation which is a regional enterprise building organisation with running contracts who have undertaken due diligence, be a lead organisation in this process and manage all the external elements of the consortium even though they are not a delivery organisation?</b>	Yes this would be possible and could be beneficial for a consortium.
13	<b>Do all the partners in the consortium have to be Social Enterprises?</b>	No, it is not necessary for all the partners to be Social Enterprises but there must be an enterprise element within the collection of organisations.
14	<b>Can an infrastructure organisation still be involved?</b>	Yes they can and they can also be a lead organisation.

15	<b>What type of Technical support will be offered after the first round?</b>	Once all the questionnaires have been completed then NOMS will be in a position to decide what to offer based on the requests and the demands. It is possible that some will be bespoke to specific organisations.
16	<b>Will organisations be offered help in completing due diligence regarding potential consortia partners?</b>	Support will be offered via the Technical Support to be offered to those organisations successful at the First Stage RFP. There may also be help in measuring social value.
17	<b>If an organisation already has some form of consortia but wants to develop this further i.e. add some other partners or put the current partners in a better position can they still be part of this consortia building process?</b>	There would definitely need to be new partnerships built upon and develop services that can aid in getting offenders back to work or provide some support services such as training, housing etc.
18	<b>We already have a partnership with a local government organisation can we develop the partnership further?</b>	You would need to demonstrate how partnerships are built upon to meet the requirements of the Specification.
19	<b>Can you apply for more than one lot i.e. you put in for a regional lot and be named as a partner in a national bid?</b>	There should be no problem with this as long as you can demonstrate that your consortia has national and regional objectives that you are trying to meet within your proposal. You will also need to be honest with all your consortia partners so that they are aware.
20	<b>As an establishment, can we be part of the process if we have Social Enterprises within the prison?</b>	The government is committed to moving out of some public sector delivery of services to social enterprises to cut costs and deliver a better service. However, prisons can be potential partners for proposals as NOMS are looking to use and enhance industries within prison with social enterprises that provide additional social and local value to rehabilitation.
21	<b>How do you find some social enterprises that are willing to work with us in Wakefield?</b>	You should look on the portal that SFUK have established for NOMS. You need to look at what organisations provide which is slightly different to your own business.
22	<b>Is setting up a Social Enterprise in prison separate or different from this opportunity?</b>	Not necessarily. The prison cannot be the lead but it can be a partner.
23	<b>Lots of organisations that I deal with are single person lead i.e. are individuals. They have a certain expertise and have a clear valued based social purpose. Will this be acceptable?</b>	You may need to set up a separate company to manage all the different aspects of the new organisation. You may need to join the smaller organisations as an association and then build the consortia with the bigger organisations that you meet.
24	<b>What structures would be better to form SPVs?</b>	You will need to watch the cost of the structure because the expectations may be different for different partners. You need to be careful of the models proposed as they require different aspects and structures of the companies. You need to undertake due diligence very well. Each partner will need to know what it takes to make a decision in each organisation.
25	<b>What banks would offer support with this process?</b>	Charity Bank, Key Fund and Voluntary Action Sheffield are some examples that would be able to help you get access to some finance options.